

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Appln. No. 09/830,772

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) An asynchronous transfer mode method of transmitting digital signals in which terminals ~~(16, 18)~~ send to ~~the~~ a same station ~~(20)~~, calls are transmitted by cells ~~(40, 42, 44, 46)~~, said terminals send successively in separate periods ~~(60, 62, 64, 66; 70, 72, 74)~~, and each cell is assigned at least two orthogonal codes ~~(C1, C2, C3, C4)~~, characterized in that said method comprises the step of selecting, each time a terminal sends, as a function of a particular power level, at least one variable selected from the group consisting of the duration of the period during which each terminal sends; and/or the number of codes assigned to each terminal; and/or the number of symbols assigned to a particular code in a terminal; can be selected on each sending as a function of a particular power level ~~(80)~~.

2. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 1, characterized in that a guard interval ~~(52, 54; 56, 58)~~ is provided between the end of sending by one terminal and the start of the next sending by another terminal.

3. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 1, characterized in that if a terminal sends during a given time period ~~(70)~~, that period is uninterrupted.

4. (Currently amended) ~~The use of the method according to claim 1, in a telecommunication system in which~~ wherein the terminals ~~(16, 18)~~ communicate with the station ~~(20)~~ via a satellite, ~~for example a non-geosynchronous satellite.~~

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5. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 4, characterized in that the duration of the period of sending by each terminal ~~is and/or the number of codes assigned to that terminal~~ are chosen as a function of its position relative to the station ~~(20)~~.

6. (New) The method according to claim 4, characterized in that the number of codes assigned to each terminal is chosen as a function of its position relative to the station.

7. (New) The method according to claim 4, wherein the satellite is a non-geosynchronous satellite.